

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of noise filtering an image sequence (V1), comprising the steps of:

determining ~~(11)~~ statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) in at least one image of the image sequence (V1); and

calculating ~~(14)~~ at least one filtered pixel value ( $P_t'$ ) from the set of original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) are weighted ~~(13)~~ under control ~~(12,a)~~ of the statistics ~~(11)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of calculating comprises the steps of:

weighting ~~(13)~~ the set of original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) under control ~~(12,a)~~ of the statistics ~~(11)~~ to obtain a weighted set of pixel values ( $P_t, N_i$ ); and

furnishing the weighted set of pixel values ( $P_t, N_i$ ) to a static filter, in which the at least one filtered pixel value ( $P_t'$ ) is calculated from the weighted set of pixel values ( $P_t, N_i$ ).

3. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

determining a temporal spread  $(S_{temp})$  of the set of original pixel values  $(P_t, M_i)$ .

4. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spread  $(S)$  is a sum of absolute differences, a given absolute difference being obtained by subtracting an average pixel value from a given original pixel

5 value  $(P_t, M_i)$ .

5. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the set of original pixel values  $(P_t, M_i)$  include a central pixel value  $(P_t)$  and surrounding pixel values  $(M_i)$ , wherein as a result of the noise filtering, the

5 central pixel value  $(P_t)$  is replaced by the filtered pixel value  $(P_t')$ .

6. (Currently Amended)) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 2, wherein the set of weighted pixel values  $(P_t, N_i)$  is obtained by taking, for each pixel value in the set of original pixel values  $(P_t, M_i)$ , a combination of a portion  $\alpha$  of said

5 each pixel value in the set of original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) and a portion 1- $\alpha$  of a central pixel value ( $P_t$ ).

7. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the statistics ~~(11)~~ are furnished to a look-up table ~~(12)~~, ~~from which look up table (12)~~ a control signal ( $\alpha$ ) is  
5 being obtained from said look-up table, ~~which said control signal~~ ( $\alpha$ ) ~~controls~~ controlling the weighting ~~(13)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the at least one filtered pixel value ( $P_t'$ ) is obtained by calculating ~~(14)~~ a median of the weighted set of pixel  
5 values ( $P_t, N_i$ ).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the at least one filtered pixel value ( $P_t'$ ) is obtained by calculating ~~(14)~~ an average of the weighted set of  
5 pixel values ( $P_t, N_i$ ).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the spatial spread ( $S_{\text{spat}}$ ) is calculated from spatially displaced original pixel values  ~~$(P_t, M_i)$~~  in the set of  
5 original pixel values  $(P_t, M_i, P_{t1}, P_{t2})$ ; and

the temporal spread ( $S_{\text{temp}}$ ) is calculated from temporally displaced original pixel values  $(P_t, P_{t1}, P_{t2})$  in the set of original pixel values  $(P_t, M_i, P_{t1}, P_{t2})$ ; and

weighting ~~(46)~~ the spatially displaced original pixel  
10 values  $(P_t, M_i)$  under control ~~(43)~~ of the spatial spread ( $S_{\text{spat}}$ ) and the temporally displaced original pixel values  $(P_t, P_{t1}, P_{t2})$  under control ~~(44, 45)~~ of the temporal spread ( $S_{\text{temp}}$ ).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 10, wherein the weighted temporally displaced original pixel values  $(WP_1, WP_2)$  are divided to lessen their weight in the filtering ~~(47)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 10, wherein the temporally displaced original pixel values include two original pixel values  $(P_{t1}, P_{t2})$  from

different fields in a same frame ( $F_0$ ) and at least one original  
5 pixel value of a previous frame ( $F_{-1}$ ).

13. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as  
claimed in claim 12, wherein ~~filtered-said~~ temporally displaced  
original pixel values are used rather than temporally displaced  
~~original pixel values~~filtered.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding ~~(1)~~ an image  
sequence ( $V_1$ ), comprising the steps of:

encoding a plurality of filtered images, wherein the  
filtered images are

5 obtained by the steps of:

determining statistics from a spatial spread of a set of  
original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) in each image of the image sequence  
( $V_1$ ); and

calculating a filtered pixel value ( $P_t'$ ) from a set of  
10 original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) obtained from each image, wherein the  
original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) are weighted ~~(13)~~ under control  
~~(12, a)~~ of the statistics ~~(11)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for noise filtering an image  
sequence, the device comprising:

computing means ~~(11)~~ for determining statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) in at

5 least one image of the image sequence (V1); and

filtering means ~~(14)~~ for calculating at least one filtered pixel value ( $P_t'$ ) from a set of original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ )

obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) are weighted ~~(13)~~ under control ~~(12,a)~~ of the

10 statistics--~~(11)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A device for encoding ~~(1)~~ an image sequence (V1), the device comprising:

receiving means for receiving filtered images, wherein the filtered images of the image sequence created by a device

5 comprising:

computing means ~~(11)~~ for determining statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) in each image of the image sequence (V1); and

10 filtering means ~~(14)~~ for calculating a filtered pixel value ( $P_t'$ ) from a the set of original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) obtained from each image, wherein the original pixel values ( $P_t, M_i$ ) are weighted ~~(13)~~ under control ~~(12,a)~~ of the statistics--~~(11)~~.